

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending in this application. Claims 1-6 are cancelled. Claim 11 is amended to correct a dependency. Claim 11 now properly depends from claim 7. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 7-15 remain in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over the article entitled "Smart Card & Security Basics" by CardLogix in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,937,732 to Brundisini. The Examiner's rejection is based on the argument that the memory modules of the Brundisini patent serve a similar purpose as the smart cards of the present invention, as the process control instructions for controlling water delivery in an irrigation system are stored in the memory modules. Specifically, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to use smart card technology as disclosed by CardLogix in place of the portable memory modules of the Brundisini patent.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and hereby sets forth arguments in favor of overcoming the obviousness rejection relating to claims 7-11.

CardLogix discloses smart cards for storing and transporting secure information, not for storing and transporting irrigation control instructions, as in the claimed invention. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, nowhere does CardLogix show a method of transmitting process control instructions between sites as is required in the claimed invention. While Brundisini considers use of memory modules to store process parameters for an irrigation controller, nothing in CardLogix would motivate one skilled in the art to replace the memory modules by the CardLogix smart cards that are not used to store and transport process control instructions as in the present invention.

The use of a smart card in the context of storing process control instructions for irrigation systems is advantageous for many reasons. First, a smart card does not require an onboard power source, such as a battery. This assures that the smart card will not fail at critical

times when the process control instructions are to be transferred either from or to the smart card. Second, due to the credit card sized dimensions, smart cards may be easily mailed, as mentioned in the specification of the present application (See paragraphs 10 and 11). Third, smart cards share a universal design that would allow anyone with a smart card reader to read from and write to the smart card, thereby not requiring the use of proprietary hardware to access the process control instructions. Fourth, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, smart cards provide security features, which protect the integrity of process control instructions and/or prevent unauthorized use.

In light of the advantages of using smart card technology over memory modules and the fact that the prior art does not teach or suggest use of such previously available technology, the claimed invention is not obvious in light of the prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes that the subject matter of independent claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by CardLogix in view of the Brundisini patent. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 7-11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,437,692 to Petite in view of CardLogix in view of the Brundisini patent. Petite shows an irrigation system adapted to wirelessly receive data instructing actuators to perform a particular function in relation. Therefore, just as the Brundisini patent discloses a way of transferring process parameters, the Petite patent discloses just another embodiment for transferring process parameters. In light of the foregoing, the Applicant offers the same arguments in regard to the Petite reference taken in combination with Brundisini and CardLogix as have been set forth in regard to claims 7-11 above. For this reason, the Applicant believes that the subject matter of independent claim 12 and the claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by Petite and CardLogix in view of the Brundisini patent. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 12-15 is respectfully requested.

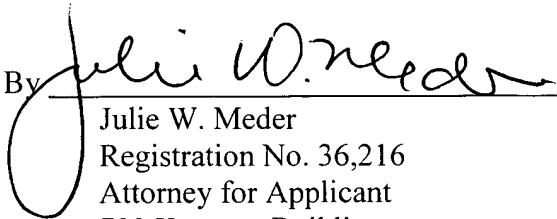
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 7-15 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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